



# SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Seaport's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in April to 4.1 percent, up four-tenths of a percentage point from March's rate of 3.5 percent as shown in Seaport Table 1. In April 2003 the rate was 5.1 percent. Seaport's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in April increased by 260 from March 2004, but there was a decrease of 620 jobs from April 2003. The increase from last month was the result of increases in *Educational & Health Services* employment. In year-over-year comparisons a significant number of jobs have been lost in *Trade*. No stores have closed, but existing businesses are laying off one to two employees to cut costs. Although *Trade* has lost the most jobs from last year, job losses occurred in almost all industries over the year.

## SPECIAL TOPIC: Projected Employment Opportunities

Through interviews and research, Idaho Commerce & Labor has identified specific jobs as future employment opportunities. These include occupations that are the fastest growing, have high employment, or are in high demand. These are also jobs for which employers are unable to find qualified applicants and include jobs emerging from new business in the region. A list of these projected employment opportunities are listed in Seaport Table 2 on page 27. They are listed alphabetically, not according to a ranking order. An evaluation of a broader list of 538 occupations can be found at the Idaho Department of Labor home page: <http://www.jobservice.ws/cgi/dataanalysis/AreaSelection.asp?tableName=Occprj>

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS Clearwater County

- The City of Orofino will use a \$47,588 Gem Community Grant from the Idaho Commerce & Labor for an economic development project that will add 15-20 jobs to the local economy. The funds will be matched with \$146,242 in local dol-

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

	April 2004*	Mar 2004	April 2003	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	35,820	35,540	36,590	0.8	-2.1
Unemployment	1,460	1,230	1,860	18.7	-21.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	3.5	5.1		
Total Employment	34,360	34,310	34,730	0.1	-1.1
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	35,830	35,710	36,570	0.3	-2.0
Unemployment	1,460	1,500	1,850	-2.7	-21.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	4.2	5.1		
Total Employment	34,370	34,210	34,720	0.5	-1.0
<b>JOB BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	25,940	25,680	26,560	1.0	-2.3
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	4,420	4,350	4,450	1.6	-0.7
Natural Resources & Mining	210	190	170	10.5	23.5
Construction	1,060	990	1,130	7.1	-6.2
Manufacturing	3,150	3,170	3,150	-0.6	0.0
Wood Product Manufacturing	550	560	540	-1.8	1.9
Food Manufacturing	50	60	100	-16.7	-50.0
Paper Manufacturing	1,200	1,220	1,190	-1.6	0.8
Other Manufacturing	1,350	1,330	1,320	1.5	2.3
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	21,520	21,330	22,110	0.9	-2.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,280	5,410	5,490	-2.4	-3.8
Wholesale Trade	590	590	640	0.0	-7.8
Retail Trade	3,450	3,570	3,580	-3.4	-3.6
Utilities	90	80	80	12.5	12.5
Transportation & Warehousing	1,150	1,170	1,190	-1.7	-3.4
Information	350	350	380	0.0	-7.9
Financial Activities	1,830	1,840	1,860	-0.5	-1.6
Professional & Business Services	1,350	1,280	1,500	5.5	-10.0
Education & Health Services	4,030	3,910	3,980	3.1	1.3
Leisure & Hospitality	2,470	2,470	2,540	0.0	-2.8
Other Services	1,060	1,080	1,090	-1.9	-2.8
Government Education	2,380	2,260	2,500	5.3	-4.8
Government Administration	1,900	1,860	1,970	2.2	-3.6
Government Tribes	870	870	800	0.0	8.8

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

lars and used for engineering and construction expenses associated with the development of a new hotel in Orofino. The Gem Community Grant Program is part of Governor Dirk Kempthorne's Rural Idaho Initiative. Grants of up to \$50,000 are available for small rural economic development projects that would otherwise fall through the cracks. The project in Orofino will extend City water infrastructure to the property line and enable private developers to build a Best Western Hotel and Conference Center in Orofino. The 30,000- to 35,000-square-foot facility will be a 49-unit hotel with conference center facilities. According to the feasibility study, 4.5 million travelers cross U.S. Highway 12 each year, 5.0 percent of these travelers

identify Orofino as their destination. New revenue generated from local property tax will be a direct economic impact of the new Best Western hotel facility in Orofino. In addition, the hotel will provide some new jobs.

#### **Idaho & Lewis Counties**

- A groundbreaking was held in June for a new steakhouse to be constructed at the former Crossroads Cafe site in Grangeville. Local real estate agent Becky Robinson and her parents, Ernie and Judy Robinson, purchased the land several months ago and plans to open Ernie's Steak House, along with a full bar to be named The 41 Club. Among the specialties will be beef, which will come from stock raised by the Robinson family from their ranches on the Salmon River. This new restaurant and bar is tentatively set for a fall opening.

#### **Latah County**

- The largest scientific conference in the state's history will take place next year at the University of Idaho (UI). The international Geochemical Society's V.M. Goldschmidt Conference is expected to bring as many as 2,000 scientists and professionals to the local community. "This will put the UI and WSU (Washington State University) on the international map," UI geochemist Mickey Gunter said. "I don't think people here know what a unique setting this is. There are a lot of people who would love to come to a place like the Palouse." Toulouse, France; Copenhagen, Denmark; and Davos, Switzerland are just a few of the cities where the Goldschmidt Conference has taken place. Typical venues for the conference include Oxford University, Harvard University, and Virginia Tech. "Landing this conference is a big deal for the UI and WSU," Gunter said. "It will really bring a spotlight to the Palouse." Moscow Chamber of Commerce President Paul Kimmell said the business community would receive huge financial gains from a conference as large as the Goldschmidt. "This will bring more than 1,000 professionals to our community, using our hotels, restaurants, and other services," he said. "It's good for the community and the university."
- Despite being launched during tough economic times, the Palouse Discovery Science Center (PDSC) is up, running, and gaining traction financially. Board members report that funding from two major foundations and enrollment of some 1,000 local members are strong signs of health for the center. The PDSC opened its doors in October in space donated by Ed and Mary Schweitzer beside the Schweitzer Engineering complex on the northern edge of Pullman. "The center has brought in more than \$400,000 in grant money, including funds from the Toyota Foundation and the William and

Melinda Gates Foundation. The grant money has paid for exhibit development and technology-related programs for students.

#### **Nez Perce and Asotin Counties**

- This spring has brought increased business to local vendors who serve the six cruise ships that dock at the Port of Clarkston. April marked the height of the busiest spring season ever for cruise boat passengers, says Rick Davis, manager of the Port of Clarkston. More than 1,900 passengers were on vessels that docked at the Port of Clarkston in April, more than twice the number for the same month a year ago. "The Lewiston-Clarkston Valley has been discovered by the cruise ships," Davis says. "They like to come here and go up to Hells Canyon and they like coming through the dams. It's just a very interesting trip." The majority of the passengers are in their 70s and 80s, Davis says. Many already have hit the more well-known cruise destinations such as Mexico or the Caribbean and are seeking something different, Davis says. In addition to the 163-passenger Queen of the West, the fleet includes the pioneers of the Portland-to-Clarkston run, the Sea Lion and Sea Bird, which have a combined capacity of 140. Those boats were the first to visit Clarkston and have been on the route for 19 years, Davis says. Then there were the newcomers, the Empress of the North, the biggest of the ships with a capacity of 235 passengers, and two other smaller boats, Glacier Bay and the Spirit of Discovery, which together can carry up to 160 passengers. While Hells Canyon tour boat operators are the most obvious beneficiaries of the business, Davis says, the boats use other services too. The Empress of the North takes on 15,000 gallons of fuel each time it's docked here, Davis says. Albertsons, Costco, taxi companies, and even linen cleaning services also do business with the tour boats, Davis says.

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Seaport Table 2: Projected Employment Opportunities, North Idaho

OCCUPATION	AVERAGE WAGE*	USUAL PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS
Accountants and auditors	\$17.52	Bachelor's degree
Adjustment clerks	\$9.86	Short-term on-the-job-training
Appraisers and Assessors of Real Estate	\$22.69	Postsecondary vocational training
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$13.47	Postsecondary vocational training
Bakers	\$10.19	Long-term on-the-job training
Bill and Account Collectors	\$12.12	Short-term on-the-job training
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	\$13.11	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Bus drivers, school	\$8.49	Short-term on-the-job-training
Carpenters	\$15.12	Long-term on-the-job training
Cashiers	\$7.14	Short-term on-the-job-training
Child Care Workers	\$7.49	Short-term on-the-job training
Computer Support Specialists	\$13.91	Associate degree
Cooks, restaurant	\$7.33	Long-term on-the-job training
Customer Service Representatives	\$11.43	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Dental assistants	\$10.21	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Electrical and electronic technicians and technologists	\$15.97	Associate degree
Electricians	\$19.03	Long-term on-the-job training
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Workers	\$14.26	Short-term on-the-job training
Financial managers	\$24.71	Work experience plus degree
Hand packers and packagers	\$6.87	Short-term on-the-job-training
Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers	\$14.17	Long-term on-the-job training
Helpers--Carpenters	\$10.62	Short-term on-the-job training
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	\$12.59	Short-term on-the-job training
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$9.62	Short-term on-the-job training
Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	\$9.51	Short-term on-the-job training
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$14.35	Postsecondary vocational training
Medical and Health Services Managers	\$32.04	Work experience plus bachelor's or higher
Medical Records and Health Information Technicians	\$11.93	Associate degree
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	\$8.76	Short-term on-the-job training
Pharmacists	\$33.25	First professional degree
Pharmacy Technicians	\$11.42	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	\$16.67	Long-term on-the-job training
Police patrol officers	\$14.13	Long-term on-the-job training
Production Workers	\$11.77	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Receptionists and information clerks	\$8.80	Short-term on-the-job-training
Recreation Workers	\$9.49	Bachelor's degree
Registered nurses	\$18.89	Associate degree
Security Guards	\$7.78	Short-term on-the-job training
Systems analysts	\$23.37	Bachelor's degree
Teachers and Instructors	\$35,512	Bachelor's degree
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	\$16.97	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Waiters and Waitresses	\$6.85	Short-term on-the-job training
Welders and cutters	\$11.97	Long-term on-the-job training
<b>*Average wage for 10 northern counties</b>		
<b>SOURCE: Idaho Occupational Employment and Wage Survey, 2004</b>		